



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO – Volcano**

Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

January 23, 2002

*The last Fact Sheet was dated January 22. New information is underlined.*

**Numbers Affected**

Total Affected: Approximately 350,000 (U.N.)  
Deaths: Approximately 147 (U.N. and USAID/OFDA field reports)  
Displaced People: Approximately 250,000 (USAID/OFDA field reports)

**Current Situation**

- Volcanologists have agreed that there will not likely be further volcanic activity at Mt. Nyiragongo. The small earthquakes, measuring up to 4.7 on the Richter scale, that are taking place are related to seismic movements, not volcanic activity. Geophysicists are traveling to Goma to examine the nature of this seismic activity. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in Goma are developing contingency plans to prepare for an earthquake in the Goma area. Most NGOs are preparing for the possibility of 100,000 displaced people.
- Damage estimates report that between 20 and 33 percent of the city was destroyed by the lava, including homes for approximately 62,500 people. The U.N. is considering establishing two resettlement areas for people whose homes were destroyed by the volcano. One would be located in western Goma and the other would be located in Sake.
- A survey by relief agencies has determined that there are approximately 229,000 people currently in Goma. This includes 10,000 families on the eastern side of the city and 35,800 on the western side of the city. The city population is increasing as displaced people return to Goma.
- As many as 246,000 have been displaced by the volcano in Goma, according to USAID/OFDA field reports. Concentrations of displaced people have been found in the following locations: in Goma (62,500); in Sake, DRC (5,000); in Rutshuru, DRC (5,000); in displacement camps near Gisenyi, Rwanda (15,000 and steadily decreasing); in Bukavu, DRC (11,000) and surrounding areas (30,000); in towns on the southeastern shore of Lake Kivu (up to 60,000); and in 6 sites near the northwestern shore of Lake Kivu, near Sake (up to 60,000).
- Relief agencies have established eleven sites for distribution of food and non-food assistance items. Four are in eastern Goma, six are in western Goma, and one is in Sake. These sites began distribution of blankets, water jugs, and soap on January 23. On January 24, relief agencies plan to begin distribution of “family displacement kits”, to include USAID/OFDA-provided plastic sheeting, to the 12,500 homeless families that have been identified. Food aid distributions have been taking place since January 19.
- Three access routes have been established through the lava flow that separates eastern and western Goma. Two of these are earthen bridges over the lava flow, and one is a gap bulldozed through the lava.
- The water system in Goma has resumed limited operations. The distribution network currently services 50 percent of the city, mostly in western parts of Goma. Tests have determined that the quality of the water is suitable for drinking. No water is available in the two areas of western Goma where displaced people are now settling, Kishere and Ndosho.
- Fifteen health centers are operational. There have been no reports of major disease outbreaks, although there have been many cases of diarrheal disease and acute respiratory illness. The warehouse of the regional medicine provider is intact.
- Some small planes have landed at Goma airport, and the airstrip is considered suitable for DC-3 and Hercules aircraft, although none have landed there yet.
- Electricity is available in some western parts of Goma.

**U.S. Government Response**

- USAID/OFDA has made \$3 million available for relief assistance in response to the Goma volcano. Funds may be applied toward monetary grants to relief agencies, additional commodities shipments, or local purchase of relief items as needs require.
- A flight of USAID/OFDA relief commodities arrived at Kigali, Rwanda on January 23. This flight included 20,000 wool blankets, 15,200 five-gallon water jugs, and 300 rolls of plastic sheeting from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Pisa, Italy. Three hundred rolls of plastic sheeting will provide shelter for approximately 3,000 families.

- A USAID/OFDA humanitarian relief flight carrying 20,000 blankets, 20,000 5-gallon water containers, 20 10,000-liter water bladders, and 5,000 dust masks from USAID's stockpile in Maryland arrived in Kigali, Rwanda on January 21.
- USAID Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has approved the loan of 1,714 metric tons (MT) of Title II emergency food aid, valued at \$1.1 million, from existing programs in the region.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved the loan of 3,450 MT of 416(b) emergency food commodities, valued at \$2.3 million, from existing programs in the region.
- The USAID assistance team consists of six people in Kigali, Goma and Bukavu, DRC, including a health specialist, a water/sanitation engineer, a food security specialist, and three field operations officers.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$25,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa for relief assistance in the DRC.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$25,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda for relief assistance in Rwanda.
- USAID/OFDA has authorized Catholic Relief Services to reallocate non-food items stockpiled in the region for the rapid relief of populations affected by the volcano.
- USAID/OFDA responded to the ongoing complex emergency in DRC with over \$21 million of assistance in fiscal year 2001.

### **Relief Efforts**

- On January 21, UNOCHA released a financial appeal for \$15 million to cover costs of the first ten days of response to the Goma disaster. An additional appeal will address relief requirements beyond the first ten days.
- Thirteen donors, not including the U.S. Government, have pledged over \$19 million of assistance for the Goma volcano disaster (not necessarily associated with the U.N. appeal).
- Both the Government of DRC and the Government of Rwanda have been providing material assistance and coordination support for the relief effort.

### **Background**

- Mt. Nyiragongo erupted at approximately 9:30 AM local time (2:30 AM EST) on January 17. The volcano produced three paths of lava, one of which headed toward the city of Goma, 18 kilometers to the south. A fourth fissure opened at 4:00 PM on January 17. The area had been experiencing tremors intermittently since March 2001. The most recent eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo was in 1977, when the lava flow covered 20 square kilometers, killed 2,000 people, and destroyed 400 houses and a 10-kilometre section of road.
- On January 18, U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda Margaret K. McMillion and U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Aubrey Hooks declared disasters for the eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo near Goma in the DRC.

### **U.S. Government Assistance Funding Summary**

#### ***USAID/OFDA***

- Monetary support to implementation partners providing assistance to volcano-affected populations in DRC and Rwanda.....\$50,000
- A January 21 airlift of USAID/OFDA relief commodities, including blankets, water jugs, water bladders, and dust masks. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation .....\$494,000
- A January 23 airlift of USAID/OFDA airlift departed the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Italy. The second airlift contains blankets, water jugs, and plastic sheeting. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation. ....\$339,337

#### ***USAID/FFP***

- USAID/FFP has approved the loan of 1,714 MT of Title II emergency food aid from ongoing programs in the region. The cost includes the value of transportation and other associated expenses.....\$1,100,000

#### ***USDA***

- USDA has approved the loan of 3,450 MT of 416(b) emergency food commodities from ongoing programs in the region. The cost includes the value of transportation and other associated expenses.....\$2,255,000

USAID/OFDA .....	\$883,337
USAID/FFP .....	\$1,100,000
USDA .....	\$2,255,000
<b>Total USG Assistance .....</b>	<b>\$4,238,337</b>

*USAID/OFDA fact sheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.html](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html)*